

Aruban designer Darwin Winklaar receives In the Spotlight Award

THE HAGUE – Aruban fashion designer, **Darwin Winklaar**, better known as **Niño Divino**, received from the **Plenipotentiary Minister of Aruba in the Netherlands**, **Mr. Ady Thijssen**, the **In the Spotlight Award 2022** at the **Bijlmer Park theatre in Amsterdam**.

Darwin is a multi-talented fashion designer who makes use of storytelling, music, dance and singing to express his artistic disposition. He reintroduced a new genre inspired by his Aruban roots: Neo-folkloric.

The In the Spotlight Award 2022 also went to Ivette For-

ster and was given by Helen Kamperveen, winner of the theatre award Colombina 21/22 for best actress. Ivette Forster, from Surinamese descent, grew up in Aruba and currently is in charge of the organization of the Keto koti, Kwaku and Reggae Lake festivals. During the last seven years, Ivette is programmer of Black Achievement Month.

In the Spotlight Award is an initiative of Vereniging Antilliaans Netwerk, and the awards are a design of Aruban artist, Melvin Anderson. □

Image are courtesy of Aruba-huis.



The fountain of life and inspiration Nature is the origin of everything

ORANJESTAD – The inauguration of the **Festival of Children's Books 2022** will take place on **Friday the 4th of November** at **Cas di Cultura**, from **5 to 7pm**, with the show starting at **6pm**.

The theme for this year is **'Biba Natura-Lesa'** [red: Naturalesa, the Papiamentu word for Nature, contains 'lesa' which means to read]. Twelve authors and illustrators will present during the week of 7 to 11 of November in different schools and also at the National Library in Oranjestad and San Nicolas. More than 60 schools are participating

in the festival.

Mr. Gino Vrolijk, teacher and author of children's books is giving his all for this festival.

The books that Gino has written are **'Sumpi e wango sabi!'**, **'Na caminda pa e fiesta grandi'** and **'Amigonan tur caminda!'** (co-author). Children can read or borrow these at the National Library.

In the context of the theme for this year, Gino connects with nature, saying:

"Nature is the origin of everything. It is the fountain of life and inspiration. We can see, hear, smell, taste and

feel everything that nature offers us. All this makes us curious to learn, to find out more about and take care of nature. And one way or another, we all enjoy nature, be it by walking in the mondi – Aruban wilderness – swimming in the ocean, see the stars in the sky at night, live or work in the cunucu – Aruban farm – or use nature in any other positive way, the point is that we all form part of nature. Biba Natura-lesa!"

Georgino 'Gino' Vrolijk was born on the 4th of October 1973. He grew up in and around the neighborhood



of Essoville San Nicolas. The schools that Gino attended are Graf von Zinzendorf Kleuterschool, Prinses Irene School, John Wesley College and Colegio Arubano San Nicolaas y Oranjestad.

Gino began his professional career in 1999 as a teacher of first grade (specialization

4-8) at Colegio Hilario Angela Basisschool. In 2004 he worked as curriculum developer at the Department of Education of Aruba. From 2008 to 2019 he was director of Fontein Kleuterschool and from 2019 until now he is practice teacher at the Pedagogic Institute of Aruba (IPA). □

Preliminary report on Palo Marga racing track delivered to minister of Sport



ORANJESTAD – Last week, invited by the minister of Sport, **Mr. Kurt Johnson** from **Total Venue Concepts**, a professional on the preparation of drag racing tracks in the United States, came to Aruba for four days.

During his career Mr. Johnson dealt with a lot of drag racing tracks around the world and has knowledge and expertise to evaluate, measure, dig, and analyze tracks and provide a final report. Mr. Johnson visited the Palo Marga track to-

gether with ABM and a representative of the minister of Sport to make an analysis on everything that needs to be done in order to get the track certified.

Mr. Johnson met with the minister of Sport in order to give a preliminary presentation on the report.

During his stay, Mr. Johnson met with Aruban companies that have teams that can execute the work as soon as funds become available. The final report

will be delivered this week to the Ministry of Sport.

Minister of Sport, Mr. Endy Croes expressed his hope that soon the track can be fixed and approved by international organizations, so that the drag racers in Aruba can have a track that fits all IHRA and NHRA specifications for international and national races to take place on the International Raceway Park Palo Marga in the safest way possible. □